

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/669,598	FUJINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CESAR B. PAULA	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the decision on appeal from BPAI on 9/26/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-10, 12-13, and 15-25, renumbered as 1-22 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: Please delete the title and insert the "ACQUIRING A FORM USING A PROXY APPLICANT AND DELEGATION DATA".

1. Authorization for the following examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic message from Kevin M. Mason, on 12/15, and 12/19/2006:

Abstract of the Disclosure

To provide a predetermined user with a privilege for a delegated application processing without providing the user with the application requester's log-in password. The application requester specifies a form class for identifying a form that requests a delegated application, both starting and ending dates for identifying a term of the requested delegated application together with a proxy applicant user ID that specifies a proxy applicant requested for the delegated application, then registers those items in the electronic form system. The electronic form system then registers those items in a proxy applicant definition table together with the application requester user ID. The proxy applicant can thus enter the form submission mode of the application requester. In the

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form submission mode of the application requester, forms that can be submitted by the proxy applicant are selected according to the information of the form class, the starting date, the ending date, etc. registered beforehand and displayed as a list. ~~If the proxy applicant selects one of those forms, the proxy applicant can obtain a blank form of the selected electronic form and such user data as, e.g., the name, the user ID, and the belonging organization, are filled in the blank form automatically. The proxy applicant thus fills other necessary items in the form and applies for the form instead of the application requester.~~

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method employed for an electronic form system that certifies a user, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) registering form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application and delegation term condition data that identifies a term of requesting said delegated application beforehand so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application respectively;

(b) receiving an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing a first electronic form by said proxy applicant;

(c) inspecting whether or not a current date adapts to said delegation term condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data;

(d) inspecting whether or not said first electronic form coincides with said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(e) enabling said first electronic form to be acquired if results of said inspections performed in (c) and (d) are acceptable.

2. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method employed for an electronic form system that certifies a user, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) registering form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application beforehand so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application;

(b) receiving an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing a first electronic form by said proxy applicant;

(c) inspecting whether or not said first electronic form adapts to said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(d) enabling said first electronic form to be acquired if a result of said inspection performed in (c) is acceptable.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with any of Claims 1 and 2 ~~to 3~~; wherein said method further includes a step of filling personal data of said application requester in said acquired first electronic form automatically.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with any of Claims 1, ~~to 2~~, and 4; wherein said method further includes a step of displaying a list of available electronic forms.

6. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with Claim 5; wherein said list of available electronic forms is decided according to an organization to which said application requester belongs.

7. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with Claim 5; wherein each of said electronic forms managed by said electronic form system is related to a delegated application flag indicating whether or not said delegated application is enabled; and said electronic form is available when said delegated application flag indicates "enable."

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with any of Claims 1, 2, and 4 to 7; wherein an approver related to said electronic form receives a notice recognizable that said application has been submitted and said application requester receives a notice recognizable that said application has been submitted by said proxy applicant when predetermined items are filled in said acquired electronic form and an input for directing submission of said application is made.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic form system having a processor and a memory, including:

(a) a directory manager that certifies a user;

(b) a proxy applicant definition table that manages form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application and delegation term condition data that identifies a term of requesting said delegated application so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application;

(c) a blank form collector, which acquires data that can specify said first electronic form when;

(c1) said blank collector is activated in response to an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing said first electronic form by said proxy applicant;

(c2) inspecting whether or not the current date coincides with said delegation term condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data;

(c3) inspecting whether or not said first electronic form coincides with said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(c4) results of said inspections of said delegation term condition data and said form condition data are acceptable.

10. (Currently Amended) An electronic form system, having a processor and a memory, which can certify a user, including:

(a) a directory manager that certifies a user;

(b) a proxy applicant definition table that manages form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application;

(c) a blank form collector, which acquires data that can specify said first electronic form when;

(c1) said blank collector is activated in response to an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing said first electronic form by said proxy applicant;

(c2) inspecting whether or not said first electronic form adapts to said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(c3) a result of said inspection of said delegation term condition data is acceptable.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A storage medium for storing a program that acquires an electronic form, said program being executed in an electronic form system for certifying a user and containing:

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(a) a program code for accessing a memory in which form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application and delegation term condition data that identifies a term of requesting said delegated application are registered so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application;

(b) a program code for recognizing that an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing said first electronic form, is received by said proxy applicant;

(c) a program code for inspecting whether or not the current time coincides with said delegation term condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data;

(d) a program code for inspecting whether or not said first electronic form adapts to said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(e) a program code for enabling said first electronic form to be acquired if results of said inspections performed for said delegation term condition data and said form condition data are acceptable.

13. (Original) A storage medium for storing a program that acquires an electronic form, said program being executed in an electronic form system for certifying a user and containing:

(a) a program code for accessing a memory in which form condition data that identifies a form of requesting a delegated application is registered so as to be related to application requester specification data that specifies an application requester and proxy applicant specification data that specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application;

(b) a program code for recognizing that an input for specifying said application requester specification data and accessing said first electronic form, is received by said proxy applicant;

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(c) a program code for inspecting whether or not said first electronic form adapts to said form condition data registered so as to be related to said application requester specification data and said proxy applicant specification data; and

(d) a program code for enabling said first electronic form to be acquired if a result of said inspection performed for said form condition data is acceptable.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium in accordance with any of Claims 12 and 13 ~~to 14~~, wherein said medium further includes a program code for filling personal data of said application requester in said acquired first electronic form automatically.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage medium in accordance with any of Claims 12 and 13 ~~to 14~~, wherein said medium further includes a program code for displaying a list of available electronic forms.

17. (Original) A storage medium in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said list of available electronic forms is decided according to an organization to which said application requester belongs.

18. (Original) A storage medium in accordance with Claim 16; wherein an electronic form managed by said electronic form system is related to a delegated application flag indicating whether or not said delegated application is enabled; and an electronic form is available when said delegated application flag indicates "enable."

19. (Currently Amended) A storage medium in accordance with any of Claims 12, 13, and 15 to 18; wherein said medium for storing program further contains; a program code for transmitting a notice to an approver related to said electronic form, said notice being recognizable that said electronic form has been submitted in response to an input for directing said application after predetermined items are filled in said acquired electronic form; and a

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program code for transmitting a notice to said application requester, said notice being recognizable that said application has been made by said proxy applicant.

20. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method employed for an electronic form system, said method comprising the steps of:

registering form condition data that identifies a form for a delegated application and delegation term condition data that identifies a term for said delegated application, wherein said form condition data and delegation term condition data are related to application requester specification data and proxy applicant specification data, wherein said application requester specification data specifies an application requester and wherein said proxy applicant specification data specifies a proxy applicant who is requested for said delegated application; and enabling a first electronic form to be acquired.

21. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said method further includes a step of filling personal data of said application requester in said acquired first electronic form automatically.

22. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said method further includes a step of displaying a list of available electronic forms.

23. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said list of available electronic forms is decided according to an organization to which said application requester belongs.

24. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with claim 22, wherein each of said electronic forms managed by said electronic form system is related to a delegated application flag indicating whether or not said delegated application is enabled; and said electronic form is available when said delegated application flag indicates "enable."

25. (Original) An electronic form acquiring method in accordance with any of claims 20 to 24, wherein an approver related to said electronic form receives a notice indicating that said application has been submitted and said application requester receives a notice that said application has been submitted by said proxy applicant when predetermined items are filled in said acquired electronic form and an input for directing submission of said application is made.

Conclusion

I. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (571) 272-4128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (571) 272-4124. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have any questions about access to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866 217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, please call 800-786-9199 or 571 272-1000 (USA or Canada).

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Any response to this Action should be mailed to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- (571)-273-8300 (for all Formal communications intended for entry)



CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

12/26/06